VISCOUNT BENNETT'S TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONORABLE PATRICK BURNS

Office of the Leader of the Opposition
House of Commons, Canada,
Ottawa, 13th October, 1937

The Editor, Scarlet & Gold,

R.C.M.P.

My dear Editor,

I appreciate the privilege you extend to me of contributing to Scarlet & Gold, and I gladly avail myself of the opportunity afforded to pay a brief tribute to our beloved fellow-citizen, the late Senator Patrick Burns, affectionately called by all who knew him, "Pat" Burns.

The careers of men who arise from almost penniless youth to positions of wealth and influence are always part of the history of a growing community. On that phase of Pat Burns' career much could be written. His life typifies the most important period in the development of the Canadian North West. Personal courage, a sense of adventure, and abounding faith in this great country were especially characteristic of him and were no doubt essential in the

making of such an epic career. Not only did he establish one of the largest packing and provisioning businesses in the world, with packing plants throughout Canada and in the United States, with their various subsidiary enterprises, but he acquired a business reputation which extended to three continents. He was a generous champion of education, as a number of students can testify, and his practical support of public charities never relaxed.

Great as all these traits of character and acts of accomplishment are to be valued, I somehow feel that the readers of Scarlet & Gold will be thinking at this time more of Pat Burns as they used to meet him, disengaged from his business enterprises and public activities. They think of him as the "man on horseback", of the great robust prairie pattern, a fine and graceful rider. They think of him as one who was never too busy to acknowledge a friendly salutation, and as one who extended and enjoyed a warm and vigorous handshake. They think of him as one who always held out a helping hand to others, one who personified the true Western spirit. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that he was known on every homestead of the Prairies, and he was certainly one of the most colorful figures in the Canada of his day. His life is recalled, not without regret, as that of one who outlived Alberta's romantic era of the rancher and cowboy.

With the numbers of our pioneers necessarily diminishing, we cling to the memory of men of that period whom it was our privilege to personally know. Their's were the qualities

which have made, and are still making Canada.

As busier years crowd in upon us and we have to face the more complex problems that industry and urban development bring with them, Pat Burns will remain with us and with those who come after us as an institution and a symbol of our Western history.

Yours faithfully,

R. B. BENNETT